Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of electronic telephone exchanges
21.	Sonitpur	22
22.	Sibsagar	21
23.	Tinsukia	16
	TOTAL	364

Sankhya Vahini Project

1823. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the Sankhya Vahini Project to create a high speed internet backbone in the country; and

(b) the progress of laying optical fibre in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Sankhya Vahini Project to create a high speed data network in the country in collaboration with IUNet, a subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University, USA has been shelved.

(b) Does not arise in case of Sankhya Vahini Project. However, BSNL has plans to lay 1.26 lakh of OF Cable during this financial year & increase the Bandwidth in the country through Sanchar Sagar Phase-I & Phase-II & DWDM Projects. Sanchar Sagar Phase-I is having a Bandwidth (B/W) of 2.5 Gbs & is working in 33 Major Cities. Sanchar Sagar Phase-II is going to be completed in this financial year which will provide 2.5 Gbs B/W to 185 additional cities. DWDM Project will give a B/W of 40 Gbs to all Major Cities of the country by 2003.

Internet facilities in U.P.

†1824. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the cities of Uttar Pradesh where internet facilities have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.